GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5873
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
BILATERAL PACKAGE FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union Trade Commissioner visited India in March, 2003;

(b) whether he had number of discussions with the Commerce and Textile Ministers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and other issue discussed with the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any bilateral agreement signed for textile industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) &(c) During the meeting between European Union Trade Commissioner and Minister of Commerce and Industry on textiles held in New Delhi on 13th March 2003 the following issues relating to textiles were discussed:-

- European Union Trade Commissioner was categorical that the quotas would be phased out as scheduled.

- As regards the GSP - drug facility for Pakistan, European Union trade Commissioner informed that both sides could continue with the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) route.He indicated that the question of market diversion is not supported by EC data and mentioned that the data is being evaluated and Pakistan could be graduated in clothing sector by 2004.

- As regards bed linen, European Union Trade Commissioner informed that the anti-dumping enquiries are being held under normal European Union (EU) rules. He reiterated that India is not specifically targeted.

- Indian side mentioned about the good scope for increase in bilateral trade in textiles as India imports large volume of quality fabrics from EU for the garment industry. Indian side also highlighted the reductions made in textile tariff earlier. European Union Trade Commissioner informed that India is welcome to hold further discussions with EC in this matter.

In addition, multilateral and bilateral issues were also discussed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.